

Associations between Intersectional Stigma and Long-Acting PrEP (LA-PrEP) Willingness and Preference among Gay, Bisexual, and other Men who have Sex with Men (GBMSM)

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BACKGROUND

- Gay, bisexual, & other men who have sex with men (GBMSM) in the United States (U.S.) are disproportionately impacted by HIV.
- Injectable long-acting pre-exposure prophylaxis (LA-PrEP) represents a novel HIV prevention strategy, which may overcome uptake/adherence obstacles associated with oral PrEP, including stigma-related obstacles.
- Stigma remains a known barrier to HIV-related prevention and care, but there has been less study of the impact of stigma on LA-PrEP

Objective: To investigate the role of intersectional stigma (manifesting as discrimination) in LA-PrEP preferences among U.S. cisgender GBMSM

METHODS

Data: 2022 American Men’s Internet Survey (AMIS); cisgender GBMSM recruited online 10/22- 10/23

Analytic Sample:

- Analyses were restricted to participants randomized (50/50) to receive intersectional stigma questions who reported no prior HIV diagnosis or past year PrEP use and provided a valid willingness to use LA-PrEP response.
- PrEP modality preference analyses were further restricted to participants who reported willingness to use at least one PrEP modality.

Measures:

- Exposures** → A modified 21-item version of the Intersectional Discrimination Index
 - Examining several forms of stigma—anticipated, day-to-day, social systems exclusion, and violence and harassment
 - Non-attributional stigma (e.g., *Because of who you are, have you ever been evicted or denied housing?*)
- Outcomes**→ LA-PrEP willingness and preference

Statistical Analysis: Bivariate and multivariable adjusted Poisson regression models with robust variance estimation.

RESULTS

Table 1. Characteristics of participants in the American Men’s Internet Survey, 2022-2023 (N=2314)

| | Total |
|--|--------------|
| US Census region of residence | |
| Northeast | 454 (19.6%) |
| Midwest | 476 (20.6%) |
| South | 863 (37.3%) |
| West | 521 (22.5%) |
| STI diagnosis^ | 346 (15.0%) |
| Condomless anal sex with male partner^ | 1810 (78.2%) |
| 2+ male sex partners^ | 1889 (81.6%) |
| Illicit (excl. Marijuana) drug use^ | 542 (23.4%) |
| Anticipated stigma, mean (SD); 7 items | 1.8 (1.9) |
| Day-to-day stigma, mean (SD); 7 items | 4.1 (2.4) |
| Social systems exclusion, mean (SD); 3 items | 0.3 (0.6) |
| Violence & harassment, mean (SD); 4 items | 1.1 (1.3) |

^past 12 months

Willingness to use PrEP

| Category | Count |
|--|-------|
| Not willing to use PrEP | 1495 |
| Willing to use any form of PrEP | 819 |
| Willing to use non-LAI-PrEP only | 350 |
| Willing to use LAI-PrEP | 469 |
| Preferred LAI-PrEP over other PrEP modalities | 263 |
| Did not prefer LAI-PrEP over other PrEP modalities | 206 |

Table 2: Bivariate and multivariable intersectional stigma correlates of willingness to use and preference for LA-PrEP among participants in the American Men’s Internet Survey, 2022-2023

| | Willing to use LA-PrEP ^a (N=2314) | | | | Preference for LA-PrEP ^b (N=819) | | | |
|--------------------------|--|-----------|-------------------|-----------|---|-----------|-------------------|-----------|
| | Unadjusted | | Adjusted | | Unadjusted | | Adjusted | |
| | PR | 95% CI | aPR | 95% CI | PR | 95% CI | aPR | 95% CI |
| Anticipated Stigma | 1.07* | 1.03-1.12 | 1.06c* | 1.01-1.12 | 1.05* | 1.00-1.10 | 1.04c* | 0.99-1.09 |
| Day-to-Day Stigma | 1 | 0.96-1.03 | 0.99 ^d | 0.95-1.03 | 1.08* | 1.04-1.13 | 1.07 ^d | 1.01-1.13 |
| Social Systems Exclusion | 1.05 | 0.93-1.20 | 1.09 ^d | 0.94-1.25 | 1.1 | 0.95-1.28 | 0.96 ^d | 0.81-1.13 |
| Violence & Harassment | 0.99 | 0.93-1.05 | 1.01 ^d | 0.93-1.09 | 1.09* | 1.02-1.17 | 1.01 ^d | 0.92-1.11 |

*p<0.05; ^a n=469 (20.3% of study participants) were willing to use LA-PrEP; ^b n=263 (32.1% of participants willing to use any PrEP modality); ^c Adjusted model included anticipated stigma, age, race/ethnicity, region, STI diagnosis, condomless anal sex, number of male sex partners, illicit drug use, awareness of LA-PrEP; ^d Adjusted model included day-to-day stigma, social systems exclusion, violence & harassment, age, race/ethnicity, region, STI diagnosis, condomless anal sex, number of male sex partners, illicit drug use, awareness of LA-PrEP

CONCLUSION

- Participants reported both anticipated and enacted stigma, notably higher amounts than available broader population comparisons.
- Agreement with additional anticipated stigma statements was associated with increased willingness to use LA-PrEP and, among participants willing to use any form of PrEP, agreement with additional day-to-day stigma statements was associated with increased preference for LA-PrEP.
- HIV PrEP modality options (e.g., “PrEP choice”) is central to mitigating HIV among GBMSM in the US and around the world.
- LA-PrEP may represent a critical HIV prevention and overall health and well-being option for GBMSM, when combined with efforts to mitigate intersectional stigma.

ADDITIONAL INFO

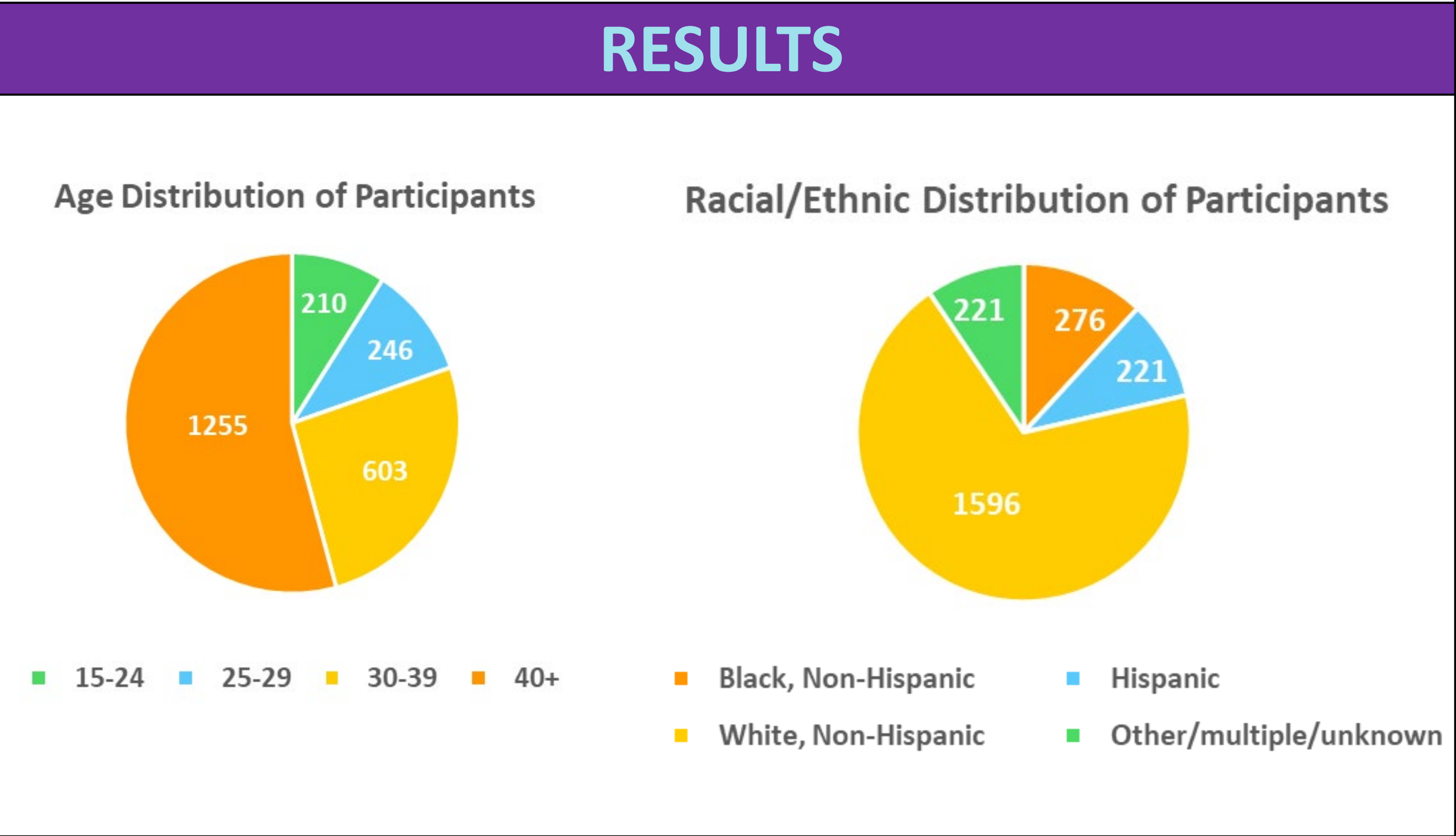
Acknowledgements

- We thank all of the men who participated in the AMIS study, the AMIS research team, and Jad Shehabeldin- for assistance with poster design.

Funding & Disclosure

- NIH/NIDA (K01DA059328), NIH/NIMH (P30MH136919, R01MH132150), NIH/NINR (R01NR020437), and ViiV Healthcare. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors. SS, LR, and VV are employees of ViiV Healthcare and hold stock in GSK as part of their employment.

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